Quantitative limit on procurement by MNCs and private traders

3233. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to removal of all controls on foodgrains, multinational companies and private traders procured wheat, pulses, etc. from the market in excess of their requirement, leading to profiteering, hoarding and black-marketing of wheat; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to impose quantitative limits on procurement of wheat, pulses, etc. by multinational companies in the interest of consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Under the existing policy for procurement all the foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centers are bought by the public procurement agencies (Food Corporation of India and State agencies) at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). The farmers have the option to sell their produce to FCI/State Agencies at MSP or in the open market as is advantageous to them.

There is no ban on private players from procurement of wheat from the mandis during the current Rabi Marketing Season (RMS 2007-08). However, a notification titled "Wheat (Stock Declaration by Companies or Firms or Individuals) Order 2007 has been issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on 1.3.2007. The order provides that any Company or Firm or individual who purchases wheat beyond 50,000 tonnes during 2007-08 shall furnish to the Central Government a return indicating the name/address of the company, quantity of wheat purchased and quantity of wheat held in stock.

Awareness about consumer rights

3234. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: